

Secretary of Constituency Commission,

As a lifelong resident of Glasnevin, for far too long I have witnessed the area moved back and forward between various constituencies. I am of the belief that the area of Glasnevin finally has found a cohesive presence in the Dublin North West constituency for both local and Dail elections, within the Ballymun ward of Dublin City Council and the Dublin North West constituency respectively. It is my opinion that this should be respected, retained and enhanced.

There was, up until the General Election of 2016, still some confusion amongst local residents in the Glasnevin/ Drumcondra area as to whom their local public representatives were. This has now - after four years - been resolved in their minds. Therefore, it is my opinion that the redrawing which took place back in 2012 should not be undone, as undoing this could cause further needless confusion to residents and, in the context of a potentially pending election in late 2017 or 2018, this is perhaps inadvisable.

In the context of the Northside of Dublin with five constituencies, as per the Commission's report in 2012, that consideration is given to the middle constituency within the 5 constituencies on the Northside – Dublin North West – first and that any rebalancing work required takes place in other constituencies subsequent to that. Given that all five constituencies are interdependent, and given that the other four constituencies border Dublin North West, and given that all five are currently over the population per seat threshold as constituted in Article 16.2.2 of Bunreacht na hEireann, it makes sense to attempt to manage the variances by working from the centre and moving outwards. This is also bolstered by the fact that Dublin North West is also the most underrepresented constituency in the entire country.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Constituency Commission, I believe bringing in the remaining parts of Glasnevin which are currently outside Glasnevin and sit in the Electoral District of Cabra East A. These are the areas to the West of Violet Hill/Glasnevin Cemetery on the northern side of the canal. These areas include Glasnevin Woods, Glasnevin Court and Claremont. The former two areas are separated from the rest of Cabra East A by two industrial estates, two railway lines and a canal, while the latter area is also separated from the southern part of Cabra East A by two railway lines and a canal. It would make eminent sense to include these with the rest of Glasnevin in Dublin North West. There are approximately 2,000 people in this area.

I would also suggest uniting the urban village of Drumcondra (Drumcondra South A, Drumcondra South B) and Beaumont (Beaumont B, Beaumont F). There are approximately 15,500 people in these electoral districts. This would ensure a coherent constituency which, if a minor rebalance were to happen between Dublin Fingal and Dublin Bay North, would satisfy requirements for all five constituencies on the Northside of Dublin.

Yours sincerely,  
Conor McManus